Resourceful OKLAHOMA

Volume 3, No. 7

JULY, 1952

OKLAHOMA PLANNING AND RESOURCES BOARD
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Ringwood Field Gasoline Plant Opening Held

Formal opening of the Warren Petroleum Company-Oklahoma Natural Gas $5 million natural gasoline plant at the Ringwood field was held Friday, June 6.

Approximately 600 visitors attended the opening ceremony, and inspected the plant.

Unique in many ways, the new plant is described as a step forward in conservation of natural gas.

The plant has facilities to gather 50,000,000 feet of natural gas produced with oil from 150 leases each day, and deliver it to a compression plant where, with pressured from atmosphere to 750 pounds, it yields more than 80,000 gallons of liquid products. Forty million feet of residue gas is then delivered to the ONG for movement through its transmission pipe lines over the state.

Compressor facilities consist of five 2,500-horsepower angle-type gas engine-driven units, complete with piping, cooling units and other appurtenances to compress the gas from the lease separators. Total horsepower involved is computed at 12,500.

New Water Ruling Interests Cities

A recent ruling of the Oklahoma Supreme Court concerning municipal water supplies is of interest to every incorporated town in the state.

The court has ruled that an incorporated town may acquire lands or water rights for municipal purposes through condemnation proceedings.

The state supreme court upheld an earlier ruling by the Major county district court following attempts by the City of Enid to acquire rights to underground water in Major county through condemnation proceedings.

Pawnees Plan Homecoming

One of Oklahoma's biggest Indian ceremonials, the Pawnee Indian homecoming, has been scheduled for July 10 through 13 at the Pawnee fairgrounds.

Over 200 Indian dancers took part in last year's powwow, and attendance hit an all-time high.

A smaller dance was held at Pawnee on Memorial Day, honoring the tribe's war dead, members of the tribe now in service, and veterans of past wars.

State Firms Given Tax Certificates

Certificates of necessity for rapid tax amortization on new or expanded plant facilities totaling $16,154,307 investment was received by Oklahoma firms May 27, according to the defense production administration.

Phillips Petroleum Co., Bartlesville, led the list with a total of $9,760,137 in facilities at six locations in Texas, for certificates ranging from 25 percent to 60 percent.

Also granted were certificates to B. F. Goodrich Co., Miami, for 25 percent of a $542,059 expansion to make military tires, its third certificate.

Continental Oil Co., Ponca City, for lubricating oil detergent and inhibitor, got 65 percent of $326,310, 50 percent of $388,942, 40 percent of $328,219 and 15 percent of $645,640. Continental also got 40 percent of $215,00 and 30 percent of $3,335,000 on gasoline production.

Leeway Motor Freight Co., Oklahoma City, got 55 percent of $306,000 and 60 percent of $295,000 for motor transportation improvement and expansion.

Average water requirements of the typical American citizen — for direct personal use — are now in excess of 125 gallons per day.

Money Is Raised For Restoration Of Murrell Home

Another of Oklahoma's historic shrines, the 107-year-old Murrell house, is going to be restored, thanks to the efforts of the people of Tahlequah.

A fund drive, directed by R. R. Crew, Tahlequah druggist, netted $1200 to be used in reroofing and replastering the old mansion that played such an important role in the history of the Cherokee Nation.

A check for $1200 was presented to Morton Harrison, Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board chairman, at the semi-annual banquet of the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce. Money will be used to purchase materials; labor will be furnished by the division of state parks of the planning and resources board, and will be supervised by Bryce B. Wilde, superintendent of Sequoyah State Park.

The planning board was given a legislative appropriation with which to purchase the Murrell home, but funds were insufficient to complete the work of restoration.

Built by George Murrell, one of the first traders in the Cherokee Nation, in 1845, the three-story, 16 room southern colonial mansion at Park Hill was the site of a treaty allying the Cherokee Nation with the Confederacy during the Civil War. Treaties between the South and the Osage, Quapaw, Seneca, Shawnee and Sac and Fox tribes were also negotiated there.

Our Cover

The giant firecracker isn't the real thing, but six-year-old June Hall is contemplating a Fourth of July about that size as she holds it on the steps of the state capitol building. June is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ike Hall, 529 NW 14. The picture was taken by Kazimir Petrauskas, Planning Board photographer.

Bunnies Big Business at Texoma

Ever hear of "Texoma Hop Chops?" Well, if you haven't, chances are good that you will soon because this new slogan of a meat delicacy has gone into competition with the popular "Chicken In The Rough."

Burger Bunnies, hasenpfeffer and several other choice dishes are on their way, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Brooks, owners of the Brooks Produce in Durant, one of the few domesticated rabbit processing plants in the country.

Proceeding on the U.S. Department of Commerce's contention that rabbit has practically the same food value as beef, pound for pound, the Brooks, who recently opened their $50,000 processing plant, are creating a lot of rabbit meat enthusiasm, especially in the Texoma area where an estimated 15,000 persons are active in raising rabbits for the new market.

Incidentally, don't let the word "hasenpfeffer" throw you. It's a rabbit fare comprised of marinated rabbit cooked in pickles and sour cream. It's a popular menu whereever rabbit meat can be obtained.

Brooks contends commercial rabbit raising is encroaching on the poultry business. Processors have paid as high as 28 cents a pound for rabbit fryers on foot. Most are ready for market when they are about eight weeks old and average about 3½ to 4 pounds. He said it takes 35 cents to raise a rabbit over the eight-week period, mostly for the 2½ pounds of feed needed to put on each pound of weight.

The rabbit industry is profitable because it goes beyond the meat business, Brooks added. Their skins go into fur coats in huge quantities. He said rabbit fur is a standard decoration for many novelty toys for children. The greater number of bunny pelts—some 70%—go into felt, principally for hats.

The "Texoma Hop Chops" is the trade-marked name of Brooks' packaged fryer-sized rabbits. A slogan contest was held for the name and it was won by Mrs. E. M. Nobles of Haywood, who made the obvious statement that she "hoped the business grew by leaps and bounds." The bunny burger (ground rabbit served with barbecue sauce and pickle relish) was thought up by members of the Texoma Rabbit Breeders Association.

Rabbits in the Texoma area are being packaged to go to market by Mrs. Elmo Vaughn, Durant, in the picture above. The "Texoma Hop Chops" trade name on the package was a contest prize winner, and is protected by copyright. The Brooks Produce Company at Durant is one of the few domesticated rabbit processing plants in the country.

Brooks' plant at this time is processing about 1500 rabbits daily. During April the output was 9000. The owners have big plans for the future. The armed services are a tremendous market and they are getting ready to bid for a share. Rigid government inspection is required and work is being done now to meet the requirements.

TENKILLER PROJECT HALF DONE

Progress reports in mid-June on the Tenkiller dam project revealed that work was more than half done, according to Col. E. G. Herb, Corps of Engineers.

All work is ahead of schedule, he said.

City Finds Aviation Is Major Industry

Aviation is a billion-dollar industry in Oklahoma City, a recent survey by the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce aviation committee has revealed.

The recently-completed survey disclosed that there is over a billion dollars in capital investment alone; that 28,876 people in Oklahoma City are employed in aviation with an annual payroll of $92,935,638; and that other annual expenditures amounted to $65,504,338, bringing the total placed in circulation by aviation to $158,439,976.

Building Permits In Tulsa High In May

A 21-month high in city building permits was reported by Tulsa for May. Permits issued passed the $2,500,000 mark, reaching the highest total of any month since August, 1950.

Fourth Potato Harvest Is Processed at Altus

Oklahoma's answer to the potato shortage rolls through the grading machine at an Altus potato processing plant. The potatoes, washed at every step of the process, are sorted by the machine according to size. Workers inspect them to remove those that don't come up to the high standard.

Oklahoma's principal potato-growing section, near Altus, is just winding up its busy season. Spuds from 860 acres, with an average production of 150 sacks per acre, were processed there during the last three weeks in June.

The Lugert-Altus irrigation project played a vital part in putting Altus in the potato business. From the time they are planted in the last week in February until between April 1 and 15 they are watered every week or ten days. From then until the last of May, they are irrigated every fourth day.

The Altus processing plant is in its fourth season. The 70x100-foot galvanized sheet metal shed was built by the Frisco railroad in 1949, and was equipped and operated by Jack Colville and Jack Renfro, West Texas potato growers and shippers. Equipment cost $27,000.

Two processing lines are in operation during the height of the season, employing from 90 to 100 persons.

Farmers bring their crop from the field to the shed, where they are classified according to cleanliness. The dirtier potatoes are dumped into a hopper where they are washed, and are conveyed by a stream of water from the hopper to a link conveyor belt and thence to the grading machine, where they are automatically sized. The cleaner potatoes skip the first washing.

Workers examine the potatoes as they move along the conveyor belt, discarding those that are not up to size or grade specifications. Other workers sew up the bags into which the potatoes fall. These are carted to refrigerator cars waiting at the track-side loading docks.

At every stage of the packing process the potatoes are examined. Potatoes that are unsuitable for cooking because of size are used for canning. The rejects are sold for stock feed.

The Altus area, where three-fourths of Oklahoma's potatoes are grown, has an important marketing advantage. It is one of the few places in the country that can produce high quality potatoes during the first three weeks in June. Though this year's crop was light, farmers more than made up the difference by hitting the market even earlier than usual, and getting higher prices.

Dowell Starts Construction of New Laboratory

Dowell, Inc., is slated to start construction soon on a new $200,000 chemical laboratory in Tulsa. The lab will be the first step in a multi-million dollar expansion program announced by Dowell earlier this year.

John G. Staudt, executive vice president, said investment in the new lab may be over $500,000, since equipment, much of it especially designed chemical testing machinery, is expected to cost more than the building.

The new building, which will cover 9,000 square feet of floor space, is expected to be finished next winter.

It will be divided in two major sections. One will be an analytical chemical center where materials will be tested and analysis of samples conducted. The other will be devoted to chemical research.

Further experiments with Dowell's recently developed radioactive acid will be conducted in the lab., Staudt said. The radioactive substance makes it possible to keep track of where the acid is in wells.

The new building will be modern in design, and will be constructed of Oxyment, a magnesium oxychloride cement produced from sea water by Dow Chemical Co., Dowell's parent organization. It will be L-shaped, and designed so another wing can be added easily later, making it U-shaped.

Society Preserves State's History

Museum Draws Natives And Visitors Alike

A leader among institutions of its kind, and popular with both tourists and research people, is the Oklahoma Historical Society building, across from the state capitol.

The collection of colorful Indian relics and reminders of the old west found in its museum draw thousands of visitors each year; the complete history of the state found in its Indian archives, library and newspaper room make it a mecca for students.

Dr. Charles Evans, secretary-manager of the Society, reports that the building has approximately 125,000 visitors each year. Since the first of April this year, 25,000 school children have gone through.

Dr. Evans, a prominent historian and educator, is proud of the work the society has done in preserving Oklahoma history. A former president of Central State Teachers College and Tulsa University, and former dean of Oklahoma A&M, he unhesitatingly classifies the Oklahoma society as one of the finest in the nation.

The museum, with its 25,000 relics, is devoted largely to Indians. Though most of its exhibits concern the Five Civilized Tribes, there is also an important Plains Indian exhibit, and a large 89er's Collection, recalling the days when white settlers made "runs" into Oklahoma and claimed the land they were first to reach.

Among the most valuable exhibits is a picture painted by Alfred Miller from sketches made on a trip west in 1839. The English painter reached Montana with a fur trading expedition, and painted a scene at the annual rendezvous of Rocky Mountain fur traders. Given to the Historical Society by Governor Marland, the painting is valued now at from $80,000 to $100,000.

Also highly valued are six bowls, handed down through the families of the Five Civilized Tribes from prehistoric times. The museum has been offered $5,000 apiece for them, Dr. Evans says.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, with its museum, Indian archives, library, complete newspaper record of Oklahoma, and other attractions is housed in the building pictured above. Approximately 125,000 visitors go through it each year.

In the Society's Indian Archives, second only to those at the Smithsonian Institution, are about three million books, pamphlets, letters, and clippings, covering 125 years of Indian history.

In its newspaper room can be found a complete history of the state, as recorded by the newspapermen who lived it. Its 32,000 bound volumes run from the first paper, the "Indian Chief," published by the Cherokees at Park Hill in 1828, to the present day. Newspapers still pour in from all over the state to be sorted, bound, and preserved in the Society's steel vaults.

The newspapers, incidentally, are the reason the Historical Society was organized. The Press Association founded the Society at Kingfisher in 1893, so Oklahoma newspapers would be preserved.

Portraits and statues of many important figures in Oklahoma history can be seen in the Portrait and Statuary Halls. In the library are 25,000 volumes on Oklahoma history and related subjects. Murals in the halls of the building were painted by young Kiowa artists.

There are also rooms containing relics of both sides of the Civil War, including items used by President Lincoln and a Confederate battle flag that was never surrendered.

The Society's quarterly publication, "Chronicles of Oklahoma," is sent to schools and libraries all over the world. Its 30th anniversary was recently observed.

In 1929, $500,000 was appropriated by the state legislature to build the Historical Society Building, and the Society moved in in November, 1930. It is supported by legislative appropriations, supplemented by membership fees in the Historical Society.

Travel Stamp Sales Increase During June

"Oklahoma Travel Stamp Month" promotional activities have already resulted in a marked increase in sales of the state planning and resources board's scenic and historical travel stamps, Lon Chuculate, administrative assistant in charge of the stamps, has reported.

Thirty-six Chambers of Commerce and Junior Chambers of Commerce have purchased stamps for use on their own mail and for sale in their communities, Chuculate said, and many state businesses are also purchasing stamps.

The stamp plan, designed to publicize Oklahoma tourist attractions and, at the same time, raise money for other types of advertising, has proved particularly popular in the Panhandle, Chuculate pointed out. Chambers of Commerce at Boise City, Guymon and Beaver City have each purchased supplies, and have launched drives to cover Cimarron, Texas and Beaver counties completely.

In Tulsa, where the Junior Chamber of Commerce was handling stamp sales even before Governor Murray proclaimed June "Travel Stamp Month," more than half the hundred boxes and hundred books of stamps the organization purchased are reported sold. Each box contains 50 sheets, each with 50 stamps depicting different Oklahoma scenes. A stamp album and tourist guidebook is given free with each sheet of stamps purchased. The books of stamps each contain 2000, to be used on mail.

Planning and resources board members made tours of their respective sections of the state, selling the stamp plan to civic organizations and businessmen, during the first week of June. A full-time salesman is also employed by the board, and a direct mail campaign is bringing the plan to the attention of business and professional people throughout the state.

State Nursery Shipments High

Almost six million forest tree seedlings, more than twice the number for any previous year, were distributed from state forest tree nurseries in McClain and McCurtain counties during the past growing season, Don Stauffer, director of the division of forestry of the planning and resources board, revealed this week.

The seedlings, 5,877,00 of them, were purchased between December 1, 1951 and April 9, 1952, by farmers and timberland owners in every county in Oklahoma. A total of 1800 orders were received.

Grady county, with 135, led in the number of orders, while McCurtain county, with 2,478,450, had the highest number of trees planted.

Of the seedlings distributed, 3,-800,000 were pine, planted for future timber crops. Remainder were planted for windbreaks, post lots and wildlife shelters.

Seed has already been planted to produce next year's seedlings, and the new trees will be ready for distribution next winter.

Forest Fires Cause State Little Loss

In spite of a dry spring, fires have been kept to a minimum in most of Oklahoma's forested area this year, according to Don Stauffer, director of the division of forestry, state planning and resources board.

Forestry employes put out 476 fires on the 3,145,447 acres being protected from the first of January through April, Stauffer said. A total of 38,553 acres, or 1.22 percent of the area protected, was burned.

In the pine area of southeastern Oklahoma, where 1,622,967 acres are receiving intensive protection, 369 fires burned 13,283 acres. This is only .81 percent burn, Stauffer pointed out, in contrast with 1.65 percent in northeastern Oklahoma, where 1,522,480 acres are receiving extensive protection (a minimum of state personnel). In the northeastern section there were only 107 fires, but they were larger than the others, burning over 25,269 acres.

Shell Finishes Expansion At Elk City Plant

Completion of a $3 million expansion program at Shell Oil Company's Elk City plant has been announced by W. A. Alexander, Shell vice president of the Tulsa area.

New facilities include five 1,760 hp compressors, a low pressure gas gathering system, and additional gas injection lines and processing facilities.

The original plant was designed to process 100 million cubic feet of gas per day, to stabilize 20,000 barrels of crude oil per day and inject back into the producing formations 75 million cubic feet of gas per day.

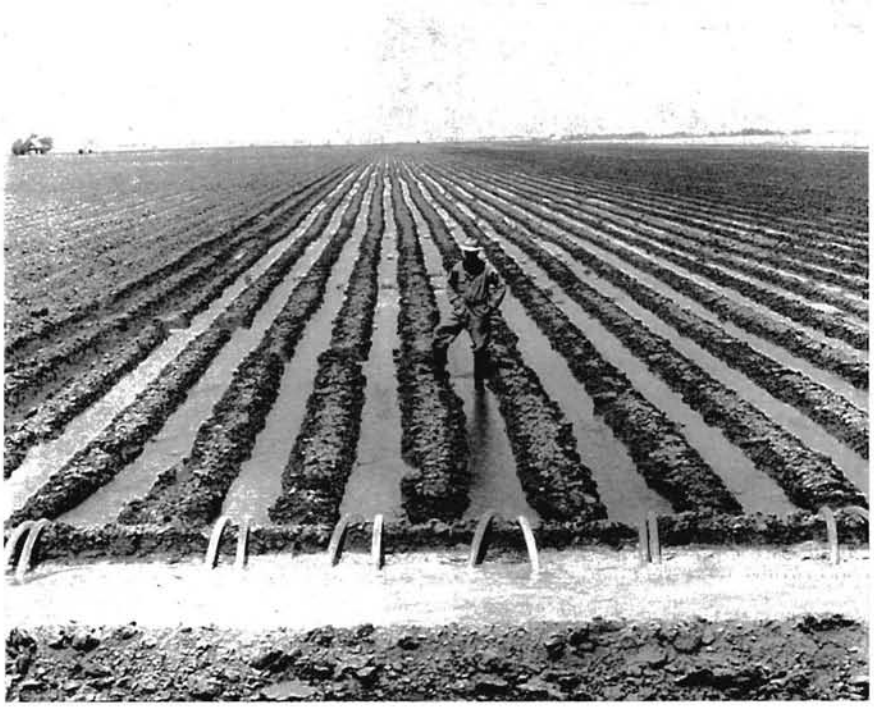
New processing capacity will be 150 million cubic feet of gas daily, with an injection capacity of 135 million cubic feet of gas per day.

The plant is currently producing about 150,000 gallons of natural gasoline and butane daily, and the enlargement will provide capacity to produce around 225,000 gallons when sufficient gas from the unit becomes available. The plant is now capable of producing 75,000 gallons per day of propane and the enlargement should increase this to approximately 100,000 gallons daily.

More Prehistoric Bones Discovered

Skull and femur bone of another long-extinct mammal have been uncovered by workmen excavating a gravel pit near Alva, according to Dr. T. C. Carter, professor of biology at Northwestern State college.

The Alva gravel pit has proved one of the richest sources of prehistoric remains in the world. Bones of more than 50 huge elephant-like animals have been found there.



IRRIGATION in the Altus area makes possible a variety of crops on what would otherwise be semi-arid land. In the picture above, land is being pre-irrigated in preparation for planting cotton. A tour of the irrigation project was sponsored in June by the Altus Chamber of Commerce.

Irrigation Project Tour Attracts Many Visitors

More than half a hundred farmers and agriculture enthusiasts saw portions of the 50,000-acre Altus irrigation project when the Altus Chamber of Commerce held its annual farm tour in June.

Directed by the farm tour committee of the Altus chamber, the tour took visitors to representative farms in the irrigation area. Jim Howell, irrigation specialist from the Extension service, brought loudspeakers and explained details of the crops and harvesting procedures to the crowd.

At the first stop the visitors saw mechanical potato diggers at work on a part of the country's 860-acre Irish potato crop. After the spuds are left on the top of the soil by the diggers, farm workers sack them by hand and they are hauled off to the processing plants in Altus. Largest potato yields in this area have been 300 sacks per acre. The average is about 150 sacks per acre.

On their way to the potato fields the visitors passed the new Oklahoma A & M experiment station, where they saw plots of castor beans. Jackson county this year is raising some 2,000 acres of the beans, about half of them under irrigation.

Five miles north of Altus on the A. G. Paine farm the visitors saw an eight-acre seeded pasture which is now supporting 23 head of livestock. In addition to the grazing, Paine has cut one grass crop from his irrigated plot.

On their way back to Altus the group stopped to view a field of soy beans on the Wayne Winsett farm. Across the road they saw an alfalfa field under irrigation on the Bill Vandiver farm. Irrigation is producing an average yield of about five tons of alfalfa hay per acre in the project area. Record alfalfa growth for the area is eight tons per acre.

A stop at the potato processing plant in Altus completed the tour. The plant operates during the early morning and late evening hours, the two periods when the potatoes are dug. Potato harvesters cease operations during the hot part of the day because the hot sun causes the tender spuds to blister and spoil. After washing and grading, the potatoes are sacked and put into refrigerated railway cars where they are chilled and shipped off to the nation's markets.

The irrigation area is served with water from the Lugert-Altus dam on the North Fork river through 270 miles of canals and laterals. The dam was completed in 1947, and the entire project was first placed under irrigation in 1949. The project was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation, and the reservoir also serves as a water supply for the City of Altus, as a flood control reservoir, and as a popular recreation area, including the Quartz Mountain State Park on the shores of the lake.

El Reno Drive Impetus Added

El Reno's drive for a $100,000 industrial foundation has been speeded up as a result of an inquiry from an established manufacturing concern looking for a new location.

The industry, according to Warren DeMoss, foundation chairman, and E. D. Lewis, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, is looking for a building with 25,000 feet of floor space, to be built by the Foundation and taken on a long-term lease.

It is expected to employ from 100 to 150 people at the beginning, with more to be added later.

They urged prompt completion of the foundation so there would be something concrete with which to negotiate.

The drive is appealing not only to large investors, but also to the smaller investor, who may buy only $100 worth of stock.

OKLAHOMA PLANNING & RESOURCES BOARD
533 STATE CAPITOL, OKLAHOMA CITY 5, OKLAHOMA
Return Postage Guaranteed

Sec. 34.66, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Okla. City, Okla.
Permit No. 198

Sulphur Plant In Production

A sulphur recovery plant that went in production at Madill this month is killing two birds with one stone. Not only is it making a valuable product from gases formerly wasted; it's also disposing of a poisonous gas that used to kill vegetation for mile around.

The plant utilizes the poisonous gas, hydrogen sulphite, to produce from ten to fifteen tons of sulphur a day. An increase in the price of sulphur to $22 a ton made this method of recovery practical.

The plant was built by Dr. Joe L. Parker of Tulsa, a chemical engineer who has previously built sulphur plants in California, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Illinois and New Jersey.

Process at Parker's plant consists of burning a third of the hydrogen sulphite, converting it to sulphur dioxide. This is mixed back to the other two-thirds along with a bauxite catalyst at 600 degrees. The two gases form sulphur and water vapor which are run into a cooling tank. The sulphur goes into a holding tank as a liquid and the gases go off as a harmless vapor through a 150-foot tower.

Sulphur is held in the tank at 270 degrees as a liquid, and is hauled in heated transport trucks to keep it in liquid form. At present, sulphur from Parker's plant has been contracted for by a Tulsa chemical firm which is converting it to sulphuric acid.

In the ten-year period ending in 1949 the west south central states, including Oklahoma, had the largest increase in industrial water intake per plant of any region in the United States.

GRAND VALLEY ORGANIZERS—Representing cities in the Grand River Valley, from Muskogee to Miami, the men pictured above met in Tulsa May 14 to organize the Oklahoma Grand Valley Association. Organization was completed at a meeting at Vinita May 28. Committees were appointed to plan the organization's three-point program—promotion of industry, agriculture and recreational facilities in the area. In the picture above, from left to right are, seated: Howard Briscoe, GRDA, Vinita; Warren Hadley, Chamber of Commerce, Pryor; Q. Boydston, GRDA, Vinita; H. A. Berkey, Miami Chamber of Commerce; Paul Bruner, Muskogee Chamber of Commerce; Czar D. Langston, Jr., Planning and Resources Board; France Paris, GRDA; Morton Harrison, Planning & Resources Board; Joe Thornton, White Advertising Agency; Jack Bullington, Vinita Chamber of Commerce. Standing: Sam Shehan, Agricultural Development Industrial Service, Okla. A. & M., Stillwater; Bill Wright, Miami Chamber of Commerce; C. A. Border, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce; Carl Mallory, Miami; Bill Abbott, Stillwater.

State History Booklets Ready

Three full-color booklets on the history of Oklahoma have been prepared by Patrick Patterson, director of Woolaroc museum, near Bartlesville. They are the first of a proposed series.

The booklets, which deal with the history of Oklahoma both before and after it was opened to white settlement, are illustrated with reproductions of famous paintings in the museum.

First of the series, "The Indians," tells the story of the American Indian from prehistoric times to the present day.

The second booklet, "Oklahoma," is a history of the state, telling of events that preceeded statehood.

The third booklet is based on a story Patterson has been telling visiting children before they begin their tour through the museum. Entitled "Sally," it is an imaginative presentation of how a little Indian girl lived 3,000 years ago in the Oklahoma Panhandle.